

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 25, 2006, the Examiner noted that claims 1-42 were pending, allowed claims 21, 24-27, 29, 30 and 42, and rejected claims 1-20, 22, 23, 28 and 31-41. No claims have been amended, and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-42 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Page 2 of the Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 16-18, 20, 36 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Danisch and Kikuchi. Page 6 of the Office Action rejects claims 4, 5, 7, 12-15, 19, 28, 31, 33-35 and 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Danisch and Kikuchi with Shaw.

The Examiner acknowledges that Danisch does not teach producing a smooth virtual curve and looks to Kikuchi to supply the missing detail. Kikuchi is about producing a physical fiber reinforced plastic rod where a physical fiber is wound around the physical rod bundle. Kikuchi has nothing to do with producing a virtual curve much less "a smooth virtual curve" as recited in the claims. The part of the reference noted by the Examiner, col. 4, lines 1-63 is about making the surface of the rod smooth after the tape has been wound around the rod bundle. The Examiner seems to have found this reference by doing a word search using a key word phrase such as "smooth tape curve". Kikuchi is not relevant to a virtual curve production process.

With respect to Danisch, the Examiner alleges that it teaches a curve generation system producing a curve. While Danisch is asserted to talk about producing something from the bend and twist sensors, the basic underlying model is a rod and joint based model and it appears that the output is just the data produced by the input device or a geometric type profile like a list of positions and not a "curve". Danisch is limited to an input device, and does not go into (does not teach) what to do with the data after it is output by the input device.

Danisch is limited to an input device and Kikuchi is a physical process. In contrast, the claims are dealing with the virtual process of interpreting the joint angle bend of the physical tape into a virtual curve of difference types of properties--one of which is "a smooth virtual curve" as recited in the claims.

Shaw adds nothing to Danisch and Kikuchi with respect to the features discussed above.

It is submitted that the independent claims distinguish over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is

requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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